

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15th District



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Rep. Dent hails Senate stem-cell legislation, promises to fight against presidential veto

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) today hailed Senate passage of legislation that opens the door for federal funding of additional embryonic stem cell lines. He also signed onto a letter urging President Bush to sign the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act into law.

Congressman Dent signed onto a letter in which he affirmed he would vote to override any presidential veto of this critical legislation.

In 2005, Congressman Dent voted for the House's Castle/DeGette bill, legislation that would lift the current restriction on federally-funded stem cell research and establish ethical requirements for stem cells that are eligible for federally funded research. Some of these ethical requirements include the following: First, in order to be considered for this research, the donated cells must have come from *in vitro* fertilization clinics and must be in excess of those needed for that facility's fertility treatment function. Second, the *in vitro* facility must certify that these cells would be otherwise discarded if not donated and must further indicate that is no chance that these cells could be implanted. Third, the donors of these cells must sign a written consent form allowing such a donation and must affirm that they have not received any inducements, financial or otherwise, to make the donation.

Congressman Dent made the following statement:

“I commend the Senate on three important pieces of legislation that advance stem cell research in the United States. I strongly urge President Bush to sign all three bills, including the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act which we passed last year.

“Stem cell research is an important key toward curing some of the most vexing diseases of our time, like Parkinson’s disease, juvenile diabetes, cancer, and spinal cord injuries. The importance of federal support is not just about dollars. It would help academic researchers in America retain our global pre-eminence in medical research. Most importantly, it provides hope to millions of people around the world.”

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